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198

DIGITAL  
EDITION

McFARLANE  
RANDOLPH

# SPAWN®





#### PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

An unanticipated visitor leaves Sara a heavenly gift. Marc proves to Jim his healing power truly exists, when Jim's miraculous ability brings a once wheelchair bound man to his feet. Irritated by Marc's tactics on trying to secure exclusive coverage of the event, Jim tells Marc he never wants to see him again. However, Marc points out the media circus that's about to ensue, and offers to help navigate Jim through the madness.

A few hours later, Clown encourages Jim to use his hellborn powers against the two entities looking for him. Clown explains both Heaven and Hell would rather Jim not find the answers to his past.

An unexpected drop-in from the Redeemer reveals the identity of the angel, whose wings were ripped from her back. However, Clown is suspicious of his motives and believes Redeemer has come to obtain Spawn. A vicious attack from Clown's growing Vampire army leaves Redeemer for dead on the rooftop.

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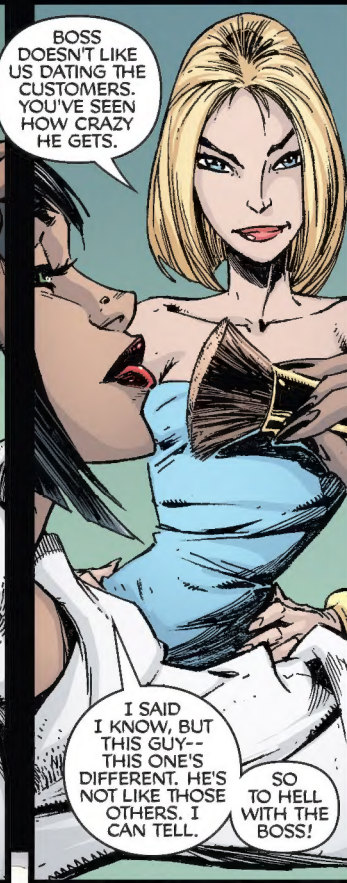
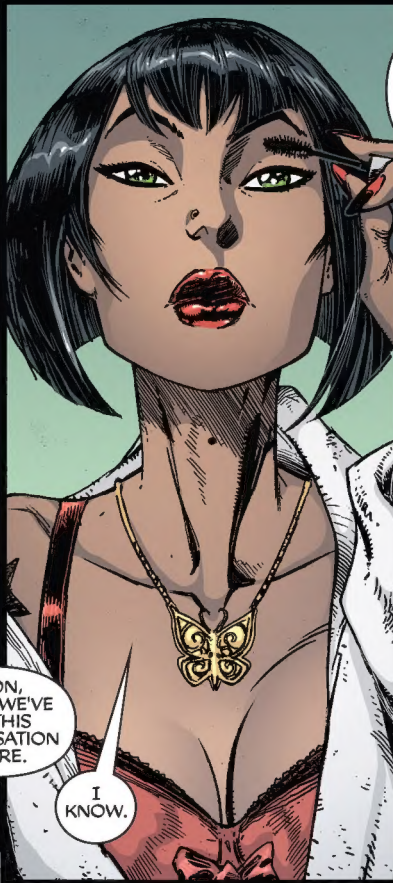
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C'MON, SUSAN, WE'VE HAD THIS CONVERSATION BEFORE.

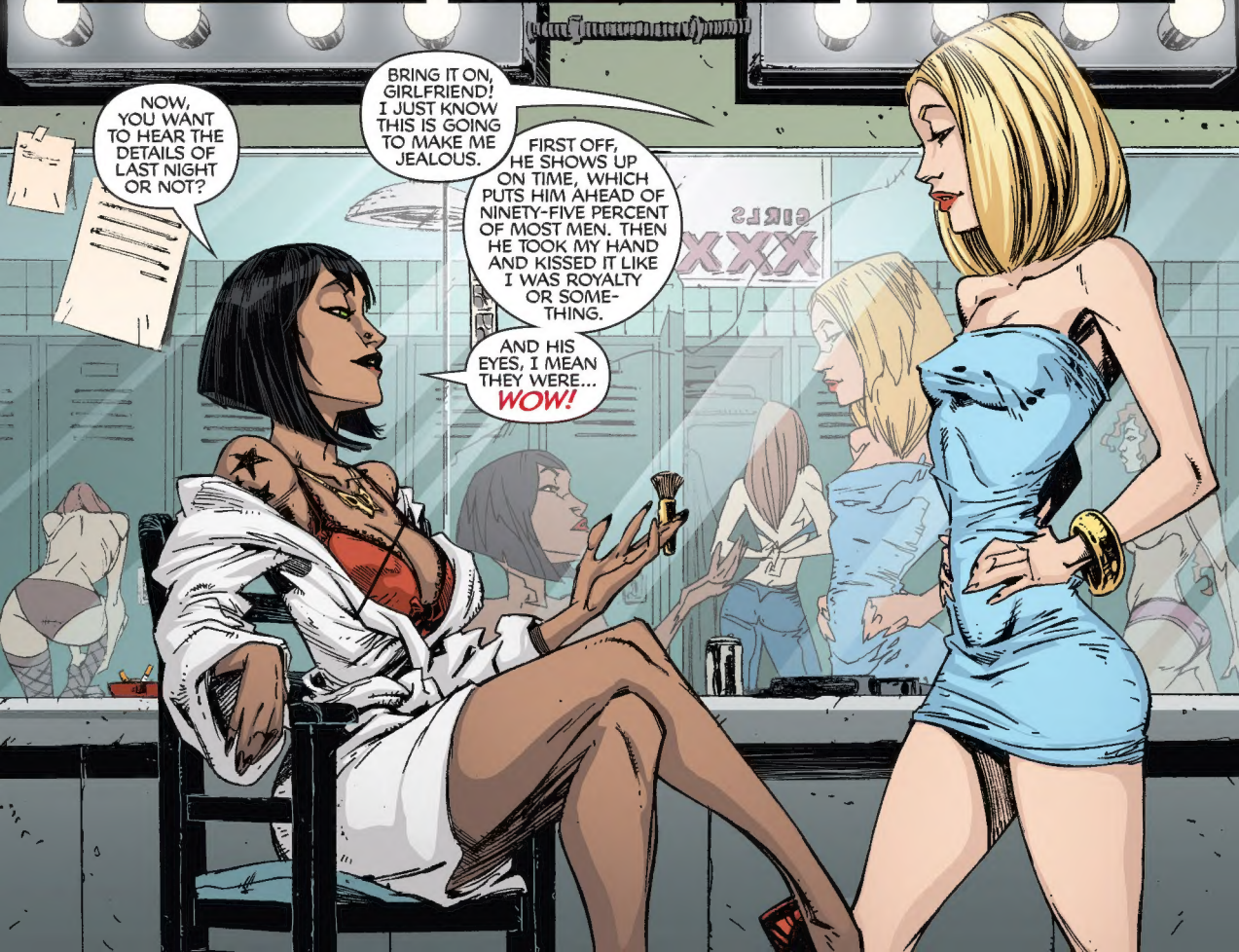
I KNOW.



BOSS DOESN'T LIKE US DATING THE CUSTOMERS. YOU'VE SEEN HOW CRAZY HE GETS.

I SAID I KNOW, BUT THIS GUY-- THIS ONE'S DIFFERENT. HE'S NOT LIKE THOSE OTHERS. I CAN TELL.

SO TO HELL WITH THE BOSS!



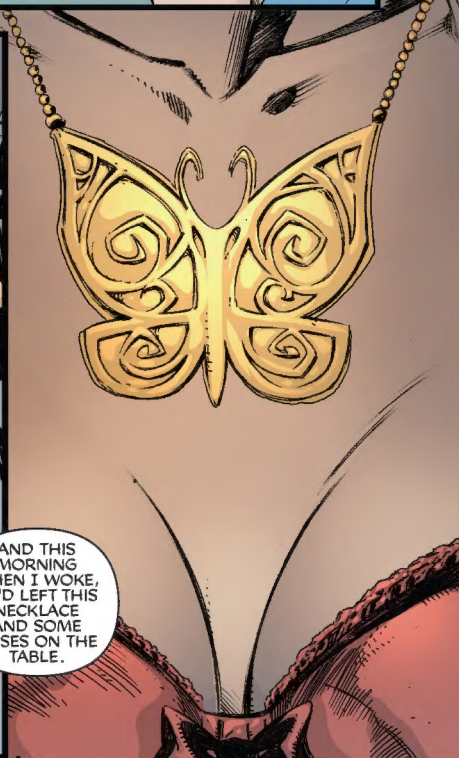
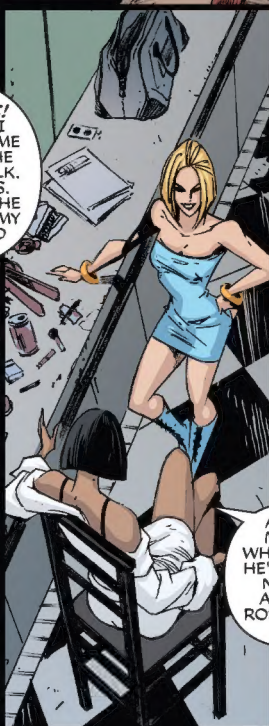
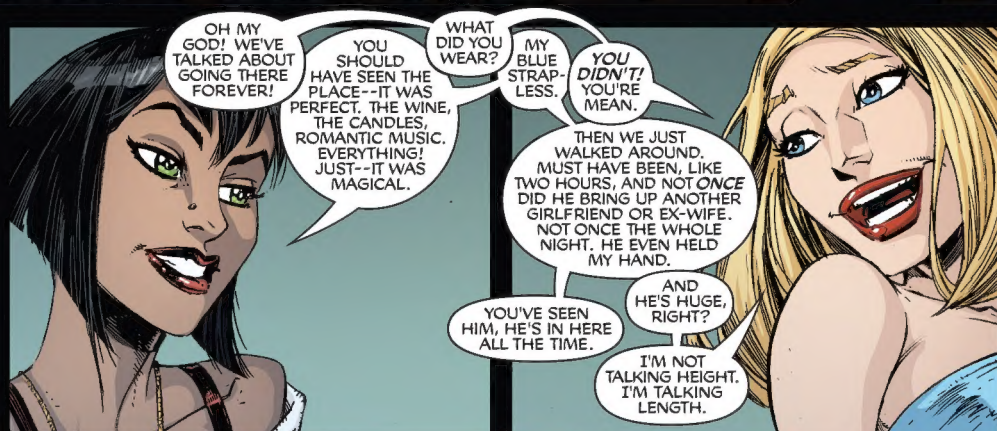
NOW, YOU WANT TO HEAR THE DETAILS OF LAST NIGHT OR NOT?

BRING IT ON, GIRLFRIEND! I JUST KNOW THIS IS GOING TO MAKE ME JEALOUS.

FIRST OFF, HE SHOWS UP ON TIME, WHICH PUTS HIM AHEAD OF NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF MOST MEN. THEN HE TOOK MY HAND AND KISSED IT LIKE I WAS ROYALTY OR SOMETHING.

AND HIS EYES, I MEAN THEY WERE...  
**WOW!**









"I ACTUALLY CRIED WHEN I FOUND THEM. I DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE ANY GENTLEMEN LEFT IN THE WORLD. AT LEAST NOT FOR ME. NOT IN MY LIFETIME."



"SO, I DON'T CARE WHAT THE BOSS THINKS! I NEED TO HOLD ON TO THIS ONE, I CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY."



HEY, MALCOLM.

HEY, TRISH.

NEED ANYTHING?

NOT RIGHT NOW, THANKS.



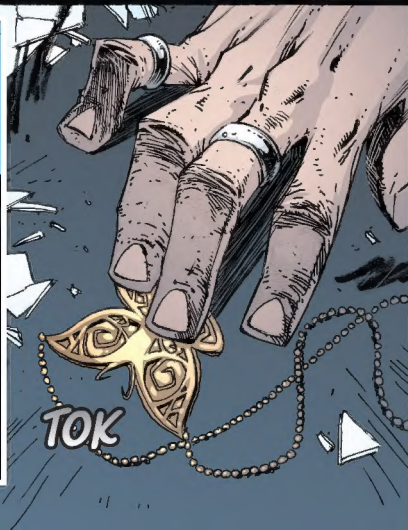
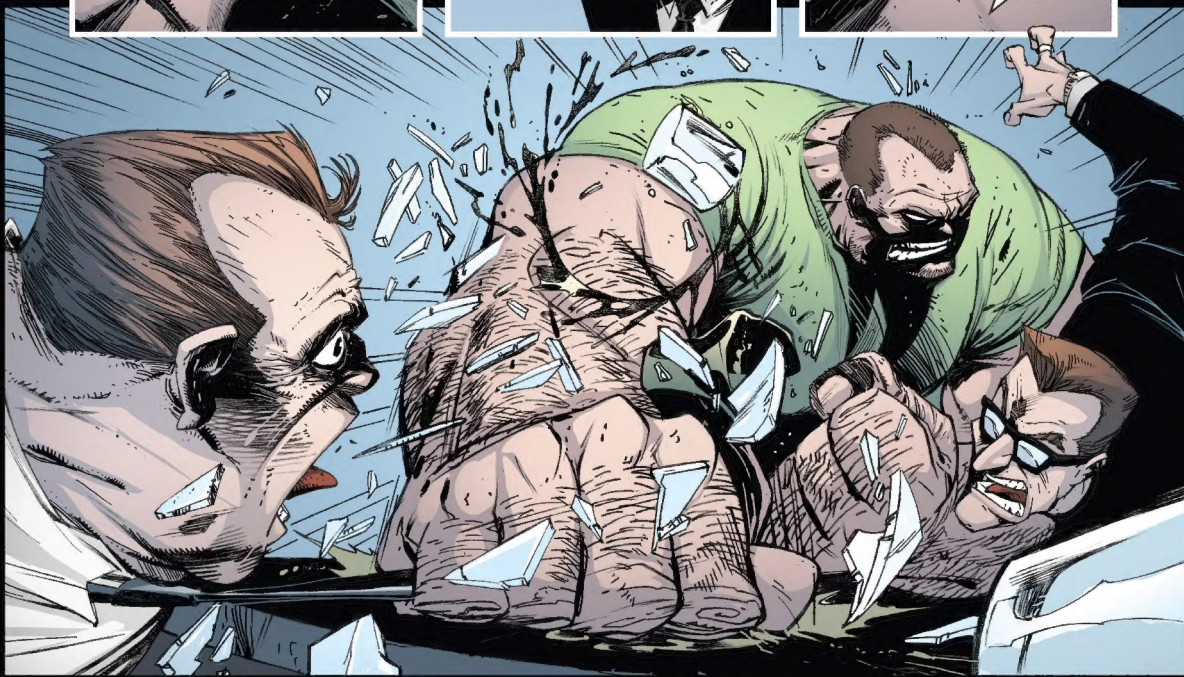
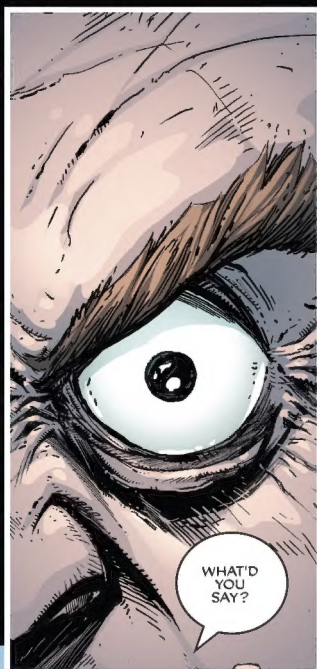
EVENING, MALCOLM.



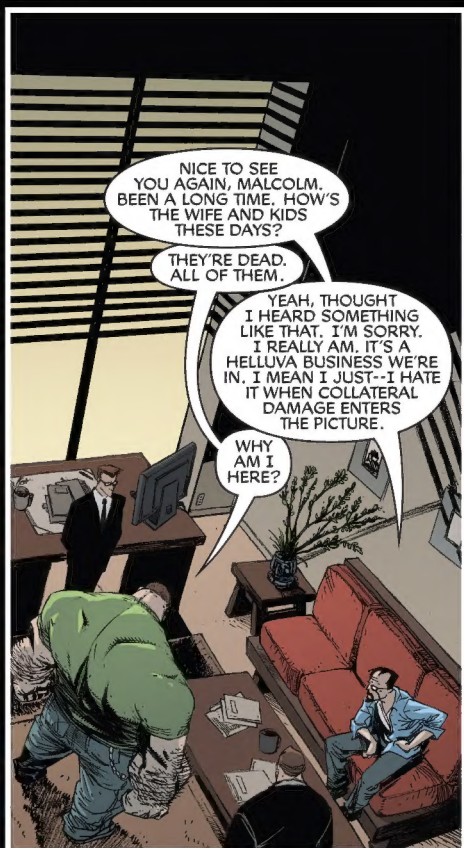
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HERE.

I'M CURIOUS, WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ANSWERING MY CALLS? SURELY YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO AVOID ME, ARE YOU? NOT WHEN THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE.







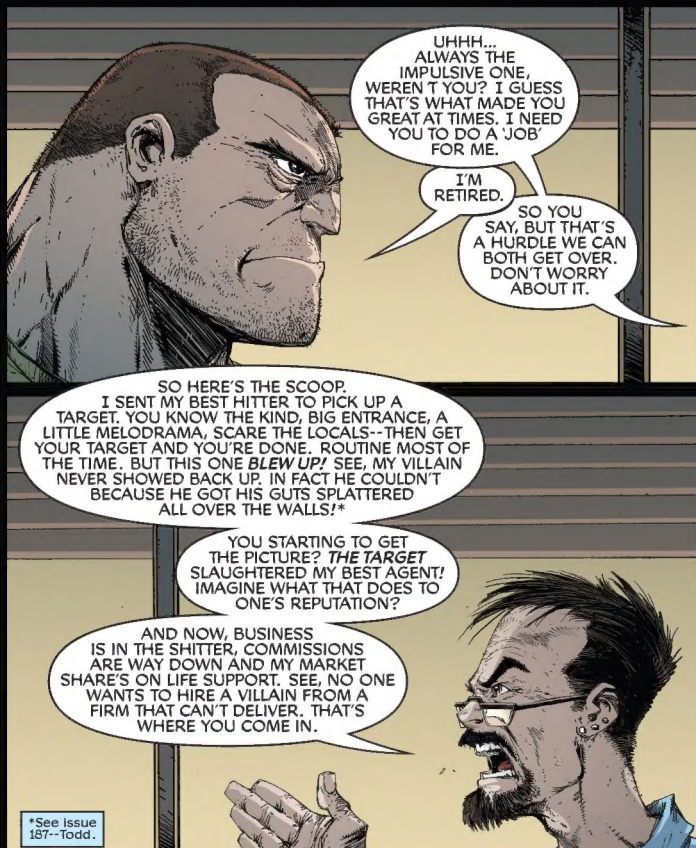


NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MALCOLM. BEEN A LONG TIME. HOW'S THE WIFE AND KIDS THESE DAYS?

THEY'RE DEAD. ALL OF THEM.

YEAH, THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I'M SORRY. I REALLY AM. IT'S A HELLUVA BUSINESS WE'RE IN. I MEAN I JUST--I HATE IT WHEN COLLATERAL DAMAGE ENTERS THE PICTURE.

WHY AM I HERE?



UHHH... ALWAYS THE IMPULSIVE ONE, WEREN'T YOU? I GUESS THAT'S WHAT MADE YOU GREAT AT TIMES. I NEED YOU TO DO A 'JOB' FOR ME.

I'M RETIRED.

SO YOU SAY, BUT THAT'S A HURDLE WE CAN BOTH GET OVER. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

SO HERE'S THE SCOOP. I SENT MY BEST HITTER TO PICK UP A TARGET. YOU KNOW THE KIND, BIG ENTRANCE, A LITTLE MELODRAMA, SCARE THE LOCALS--THEN GET YOUR TARGET AND YOU'RE DONE. ROUTINE MOST OF THE TIME. BUT THIS ONE *BLEW UP!* SEE, MY VILLAIN NEVER SHOWED BACK UP. IN FACT HE COULDN'T BECAUSE HE GOT HIS GUTS SPLATTERED ALL OVER THE WALLS!\*

YOU STARTING TO GET THE PICTURE? *THE TARGET* SLAUGHTERED MY BEST AGENT! IMAGINE WHAT THAT DOES TO ONE'S REPUTATION?

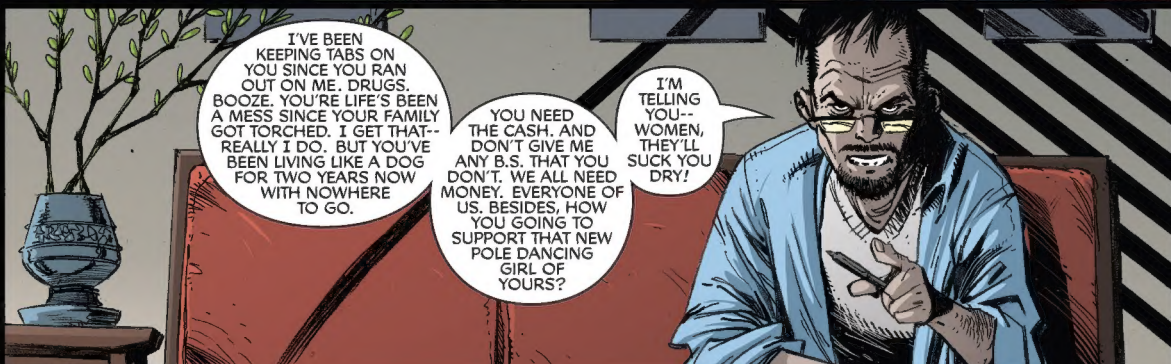
AND NOW, BUSINESS IS IN THE SHITTER, COMMISSIONS ARE WAY DOWN AND MY MARKET SHARE'S ON LIFE SUPPORT. SEE, NO ONE WANTS TO HIRE A VILLAIN FROM A FIRM THAT CAN'T DELIVER. THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.

\*See Issue 187--Todd.



WONDERING WHEN YOU WERE GOING TO GET TO THAT.

DON'T GET FLIP WITH ME!



I'VE BEEN KEEPING TABS ON YOU SINCE YOU RAN OUT ON ME. DRUGS. BOOZE. YOU'RE LIFE'S BEEN A MESS SINCE YOUR FAMILY GOT TORCHED. I GET THAT--REALLY I DO. BUT YOU'VE BEEN LIVING LIKE A DOG FOR TWO YEARS NOW WITH NOWHERE TO GO.

YOU NEED THE CASH. AND DON'T GIVE ME ANY B.S. THAT YOU DON'T. WE ALL NEED MONEY. EVERYONE OF US. BESIDES, HOW YOU GOING TO SUPPORT THAT NEW POLE DANCING GIRL OF YOURS?

I'M TELLING YOU--WOMEN, THEY'LL SUCK YOU DRY!





SO  
HERE'S  
THE  
GIG.

I PAY YOU A  
BOATLOAD OF CASH, AND  
YOU BRING ME THIS TARGET  
THAT'S RUINED MY BUSINESS. I  
NEED TO KNOW HOW HE DID IT.  
AFTER THAT, YOU GO BACK TO  
YOUR LOSER LIFE AND DO  
WHATEVER YOU WANT.

AND  
IF I SAY  
NO?



C'MON,  
MALCOLM, YOU'RE  
SMARTER THAN THAT! YOU  
KNOW WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF.  
ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M PISSED.  
SO DO US BOTH A FAVOR, JUST  
DO THIS ONE LAST JOB AND  
YOU NEVER HERE FROM ME  
EVER AGAIN. I SWEAR  
TO YOU.

AND IF THAT VEILED  
THREAT ISN'T ENOUGH, THEN  
HOW ABOUT THIS TIDBIT? YOUR  
TARGET, THE ONE WE'VE TRACKED  
DOWN. THE ONE THAT SOME NOSEY  
REPORTER KEEPS ASKING ABOUT--  
WELL IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE SOME-  
THING IN COMMON WITH HIM.  
REMEMBER HOW THEY CALLED  
YOU PATIENT 46?

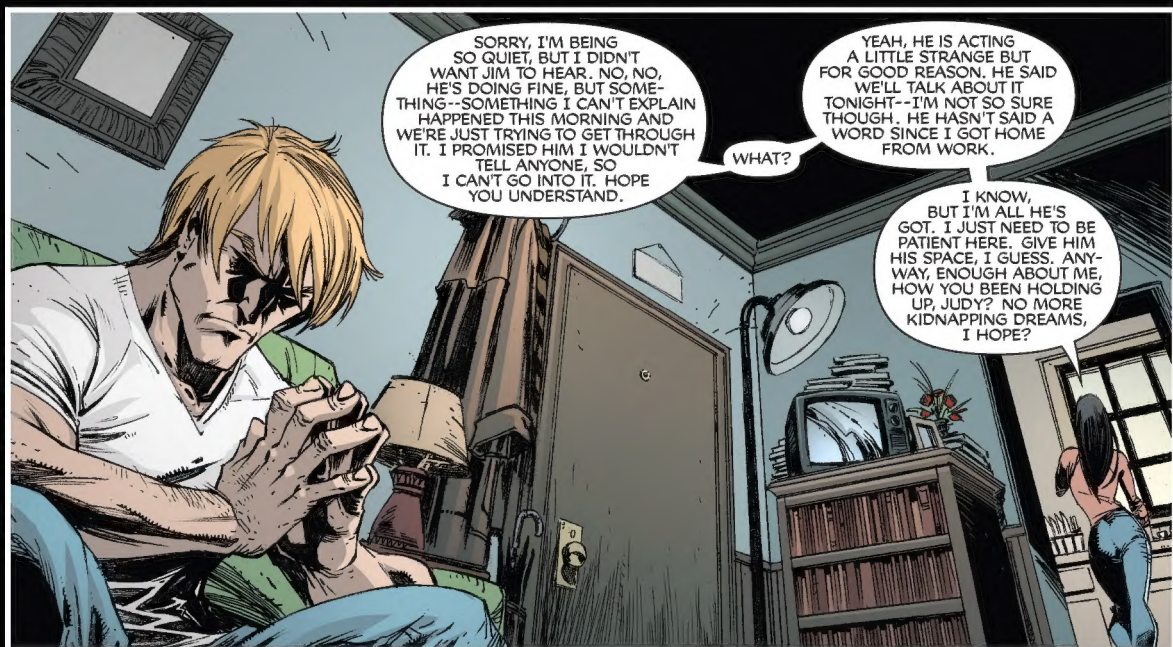
THEY'RE  
CALLING THIS  
GUY PATIENT 47.



**WHAT?!**

**YOU'RE  
LYING!!**  
I WAS THE  
LAST ONE!!  
THERE AREN'T  
ANY MORE!





SORRY, I'M BEING SO QUIET, BUT I DIDN'T WANT JIM TO HEAR. NO, NO, HE'S DOING FINE, BUT SOMETHING--SOMETHING I CAN'T EXPLAIN HAPPENED THIS MORNING AND WE'RE JUST TRYING TO GET THROUGH IT. I PROMISED HIM I WOULDN'T TELL ANYONE, SO I CAN'T GO INTO IT. HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

YEAH, HE IS ACTING A LITTLE STRANGE BUT FOR GOOD REASON. HE SAID WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT TONIGHT--I'M NOT SO SURE THOUGH. HE HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE I GOT HOME FROM WORK.

WHAT?

I KNOW, BUT I'M ALL HE'S GOT. I JUST NEED TO BE PATIENT HERE. GIVE HIM HIS SPACE, I GUESS. ANYWAY, ENOUGH ABOUT ME, HOW YOU BEEN HOLDING UP, JUDY? NO MORE KIDNAPPING DREAMS, I HOPE?



SARA!  
I'M GOING OUT!



WAIT!  
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

OUTSIDE--  
I NEED SOME FRESH AIR.

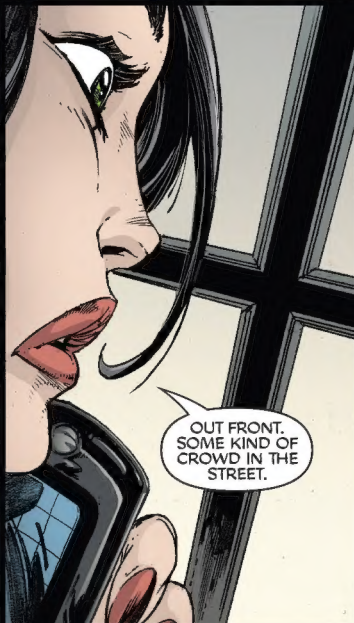


**BANG!**



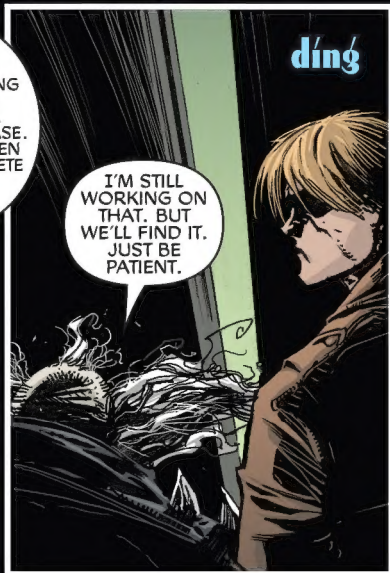
NO. I'M OKAY. JIM'S JUST BEING WEIRD AGAIN. NOTHING NEW. YOU STILL WANT ME TO COME OVER TOMORROW?

ALRIGHT, I'LL... HMM, NOW THAT'S STRANGE.



OUT FRONT. SOME KIND OF CROWD IN THE STREET.









JIM!  
HEY,  
JIM!



I NEED  
TO TALK TO  
YOU! PLEASE--  
JUST GIVE ME  
A CHANCE.



WHY? SO  
YOU CAN GET YOUR  
DAMN STORY AND MAKE  
A NAME FOR YOURSELF?  
IS THAT IT? I'M GETTING  
TIRED OF YOU AMBUSHING  
ME LIKE YOU DID WITH  
THAT OLD MAN IN THE  
WHEELCHAIR!\*

\*See last issue, Todd.



I'M  
SORRY.  
I DIDN'T  
MEAN  
TO...



**YOU  
GODDAMN  
LIAR!!**

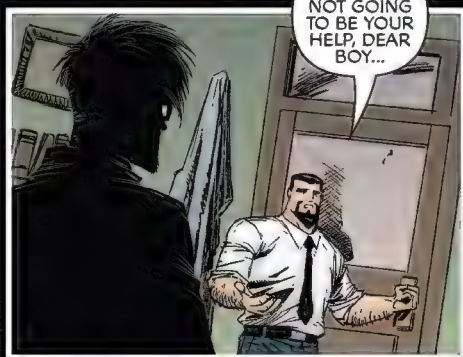
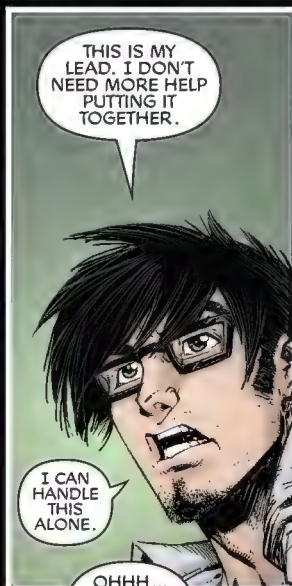
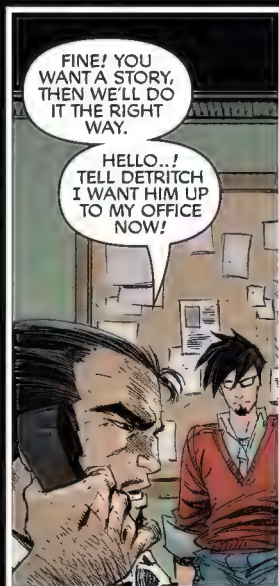
OF COURSE YOU MEANT  
IT! THAT'S YOUR JOB--  
TO EXPLOIT PEOPLE FOR  
PERSONAL GAIN. AT  
LEAST BE MAN ENOUGH  
TO ADMIT THAT! WHY  
ELSE WOULD YOU  
BE HERE?

BECAUSE  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO NEED A  
FRIEND!

YEAH?  
WHY'S  
THAT?

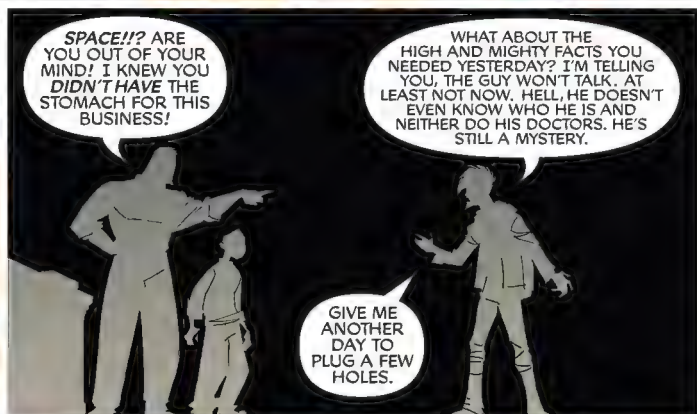


Yesterday.

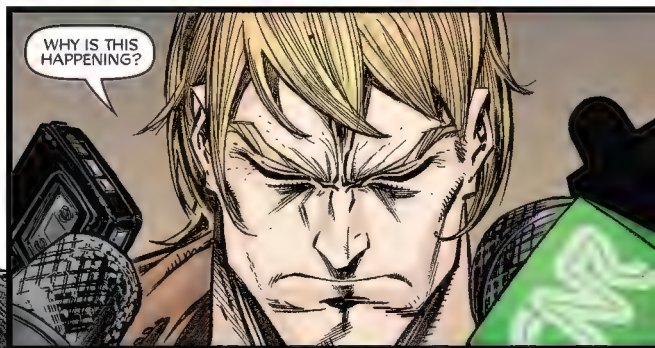
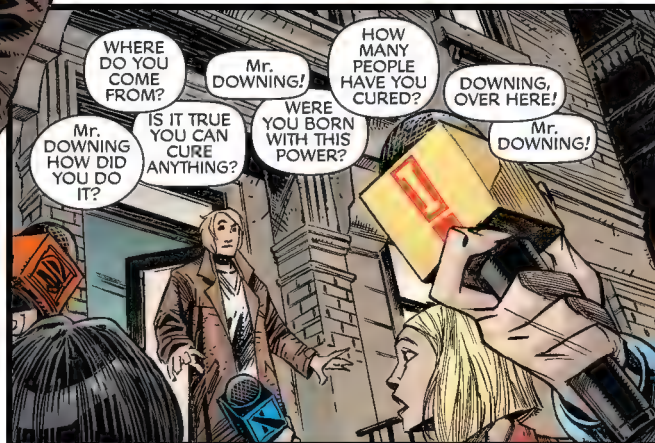
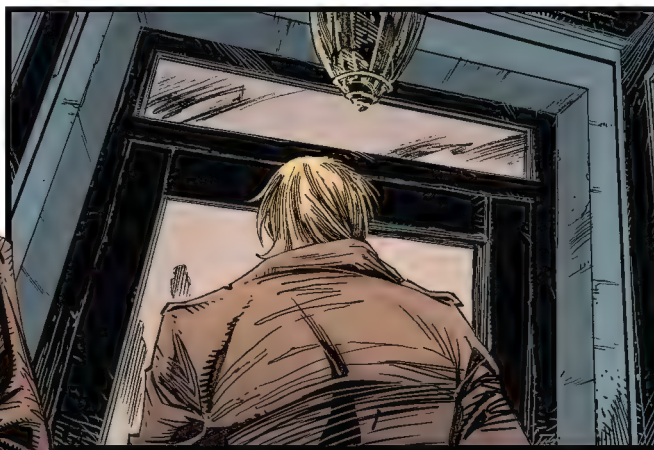
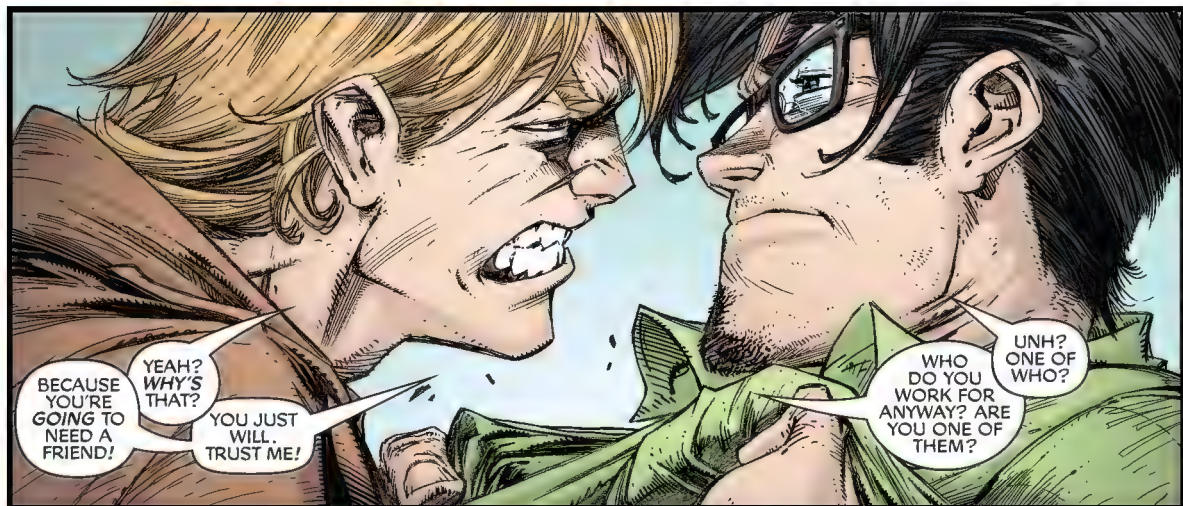




15 hours later.

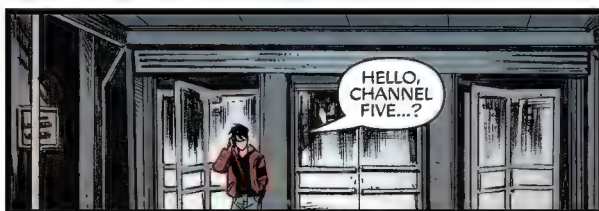








Three hours earlier.







CAN YOU COMMENT ON...

DOES IT HURT WHEN YOU DO IT?

Mr. DOWNING, PLEASE!



JIM, I'LL GET YOU A TAXI.



MARC...?

HEY! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

IN THE SKY!

WHAT IS THAT?

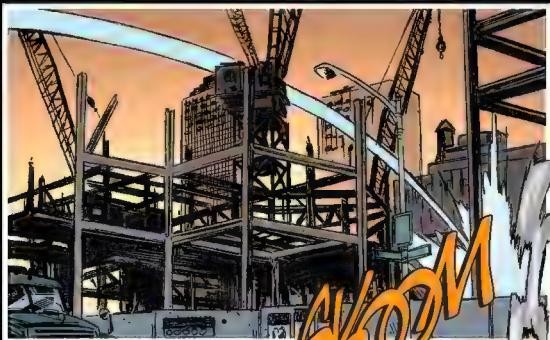


I NEED TO TALK TO DOWNING!









DID THE DOCTORS 'FIX' YOU TOO? GET UP! SHOW ME WHY THEY NEEDED ANOTHER PATIENT!



**CHRIST!**

THEY TRANSFORMED YOUR WHOLE BODY??!!





THAT WASN'T  
POSSIBLE! THEY SAID  
THEY COULDN'T RE-  
ENGINEER THE BODY  
THAT FAR!

GRK

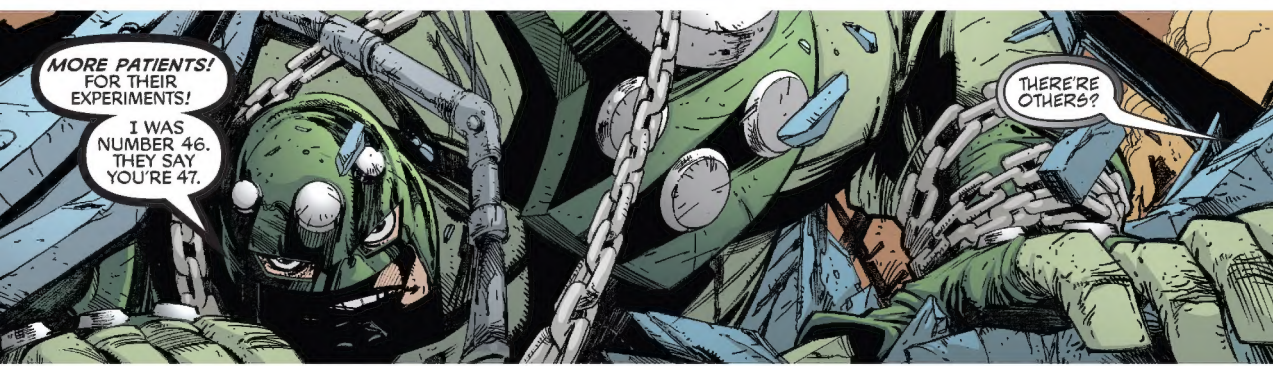
I WAS A  
PATIENT... LIKE  
YOU WERE! BUT  
I WAS GOING  
TO BE THEIR LAST!  
THERE WEREN'T  
SUPPOSE TO BE  
MORE!

HOW DO  
YOU KNOW  
ME?!!

WHAT'RE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT--MORE  
WHAT?

**TALK,  
GOD-  
DAMMIT!**





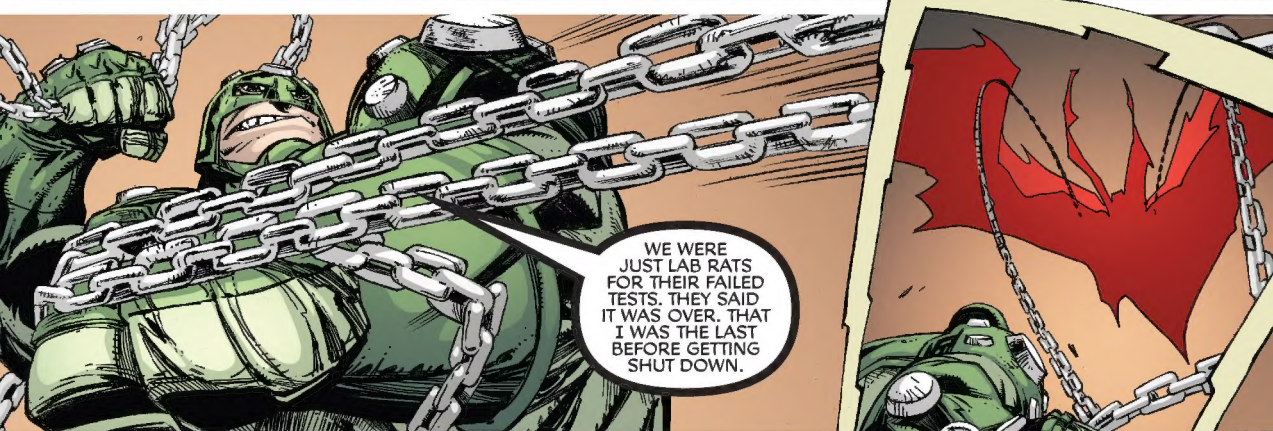
MORE PATIENTS!  
FOR THEIR  
EXPERIMENTS!

I WAS  
NUMBER 46.  
THEY SAY  
YOU'RE 47.

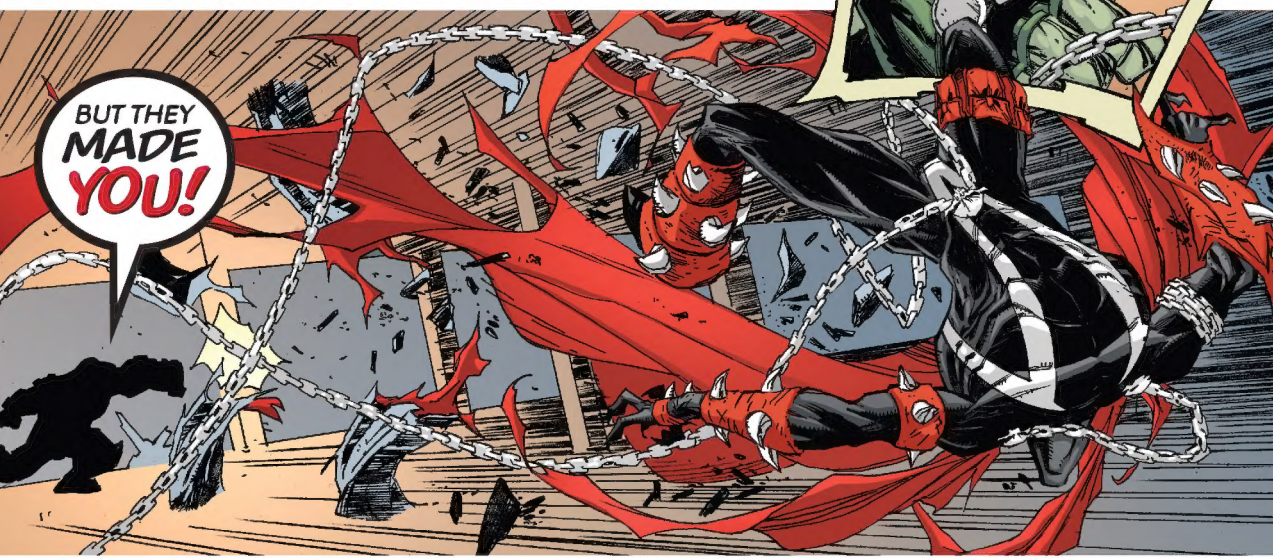
THERE'RE  
OTHERS?



THERE WERE,  
BUT MOST DIED--  
AT LEAST THE LUCKY  
ONES DID. OTHERS DISAP-  
PEARED. THEY NEVER TOLD  
US MUCH--YOU KNOW  
THAT. NONE OF IT! OUR  
LOCATION! OUR TEST  
RESULTS! OUR HEALTH!  
NONE OF IT! THEY  
JUST TORTURED  
US INSTEAD!

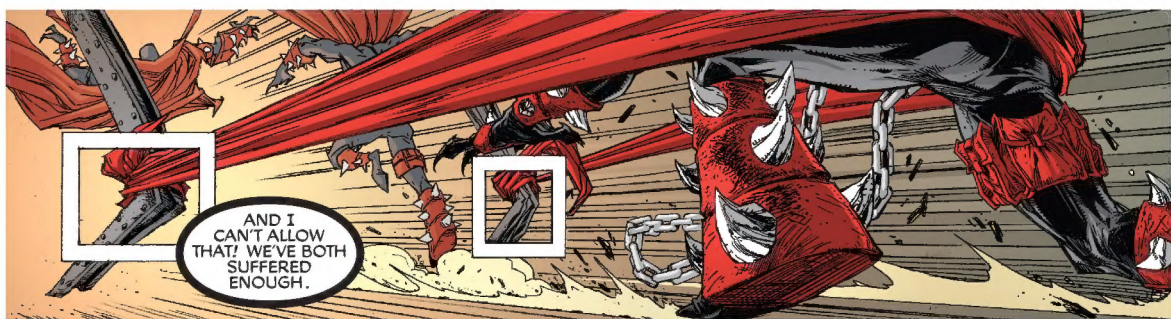


WE WERE  
JUST LAB RATS  
FOR THEIR FAILED  
TESTS. THEY SAID  
IT WAS OVER. THAT  
I WAS THE LAST  
BEFORE GETTING  
SHUT DOWN.



BUT THEY  
MADE  
**YOU!**









TO BE CONTINUED







Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE